

Drawing Amendments:

Applicant submits a new set of drawings labeled "Replacement Sheet." Per the Examiner's request, the drawings have been amended to include assembling lines.

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed April 15, 2005. Claims 1-9 are herein canceled, Claims 10-18 have previously been withdrawn, and new Claims 19-25 are now pending in the present Application.

The Examiner has objected to the Drawings because Figure 2 does not contain assembling lines. In response, Applicant submits a new set of drawings with each sheet being labeled as a Replacement Sheet. The new set of drawings include assembling lines where appropriate. The Applicants submits that no new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,323,916 issued to Salmon (the Salmon '916 patent).

The Examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,976,014 issued to Brown (the Brown '014 patent).

The Examiner has rejected Claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over the Brown '014 patent.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over the Brown '014 patent as applied to Claims 1, 3 and 5 and further in view of the Salmon '916 patent.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over the Salmon '916 patent as applied to Claims 1 and 2 further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,006,925 issued to Sevier (the Sevier '925 patent).

The Examiner has rejected Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over the Salmon '916 patent as applied to Claims 1 and 2 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,179,133 issued to Reece (the Reece '133 patent).

As set forth above, Claims 1-9 have been canceled and new Claims 19-25 are currently pending in this application.

The Salmon '916 patent discloses a rack having base frame members 26A, 26B, upstanding vertical posts 22A, 22B and a top channel 24A, 24B extending between the vertical posts. The base frame members 26A, 26B include an upstanding front flange (perpendicular to 26A) and a rear flange (perpendicular to 26B). The base frame members 26A, 26B are also positioned between the vertical posts. Additionally, as indicated in column 4, lines 59-61, the base frame members are spaced apart so as to form a slot 30 therebetween.

With respect to independent Claim 19, the Salmon '916 patent does not disclose a rack having a base with a center base portion and a front base portion where the center base portion extends generally between the vertical posts and the front base portion is positioned in front of the vertical posts and the center base portion. The Salmon '916 patent also does not disclose the upstanding front wall of the center base portion abutting the upstanding rear wall of the front base portion. As such, since the Salmon '916 patent does not include all of the claimed structural limitations of the present invention, the Salmon '916 patent does not anticipate independent Claim 19 or Claims 20-25 that depend therefrom.

The Brown '014 patent discloses a lightweight modular shelving apparatus for a library formed from a number of pre-assembled free standing modular units 10. The modular units 10 are formed from top frames 12, bottom frames 14 and vertical posts 16. Each modular unit 10 is joined by upper and lower frames 30 and 32, respectively. As set

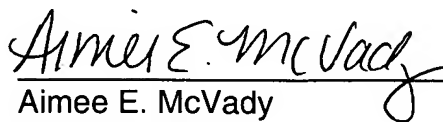
forth in column 2, lines 44-49, the modular units 10 are lightweight to enable the user to adjust the units without assistance of the manufacturer.

With respect to independent Claim 19, the Brown '014 patent does not disclose a network rack with a base having a center base portion and a front base portion where the center base portion extends generally between the vertical posts and the front base portion is positioned in front of the vertical posts and the center base portion. The Brown '014 patent also does not disclose an upstanding front wall of the center base portion abutting an upstanding rear wall of the front base portion. As such, since the Brown '014 patent does not include all of the claimed structural limitations of the present invention, the Brown '014 patent does not anticipate independent Claim 19 or Claims 20-25 that depend therefrom.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that new Claims 19-25 are allowable over the Salmon '916 patent, the Brown '014 patent, the Sevier '925 patent and the Reece '133 patent, alone or in combination, and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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